

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A procedure for shutting down an operating fuel cell system includes disconnecting the primary electricity using device and stopping the flow of hydrogen

5 containing fuel to the anode, followed by quickly displacing the residual hydrogen with air by blowing air through the anode fuel flow field. A sufficiently fast purging of the anode flow field with air eliminates the need for purging with an inert gas such

10 as nitrogen.

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